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Borough of South Molton

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1957.



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113 East Street,

South Molton,

June, 1958.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of South Molton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report
on the Health and Sanitation Administration of the
Borough for the year 1957.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.).

Medical Officer of Health.

South Molton Borough

LIST OF STAFF

The Staff of the Public Health Department
consists of:

Part-time Officers:—

F. J. H. MARTIN,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.),
Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

A. J. C. NEX, M.A.P.H.I.,

G. E. MOGFORD, M.A.P.H.I.,
Additional Public Health Inspectors.

Miss M. LOCK

Mrs. ELWORTHY
Clerks.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	5,910
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate) ...	3,090
Inhabited Houses	1,016
Rateable Value	£37,213
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£150

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate ...	15	22	37
Illegitimate ...	—	1	1
			<hr/> 38 <hr/>

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population—12.29

	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate ...	—	—	—
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
			<hr/> — <hr/>

STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births— Nil

	Males	Females	Total
DEATHS	19	28	47

DEATH RATE per 1,000 population—15.21

The table below shows the comparative figures for the South Molton Borough and England and Wales.

The Local Birth and Death Rates are shown corrected by the Area Comparability Factors.

Birth Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
S. Molton Borough...	13.39	—	10.95	26.31	0
England and Wales	16.1	—	11.5	23.0	0

DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	..	...	0	0	0
						<hr/> 1

DEATH RATE per 1,000 Live Births→26.31

DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
						<hr/> 1

LOCAL DEATHS OVER 65 YEARS

65—69	...	7	85—89	...	4
70—74	...	11	90—94	...	4
75—79	...	7	95 plus		1
80—84	...	6	Total		40

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	0

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1957

					Males	Females
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	...		0	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...	...	...		0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...		2	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...		3	5
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...		2	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...		—	1
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...		8	4
Influenza	...	...	...		0	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...		—	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...		2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...		1	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...		0	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...		1	—
All other Accidents	...	...	...		—	3
						<hr/> 19
						<hr/> 28

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1957

(in age groups excluding Tuberculosis)

Age years	Measles		Whooping Cough	
	M	F	M	F
0— 1	0	0	0	1
1— 2	0	0	1	0
2— 3	0	0	1	0
3— 4	0	1	0	0
4— 5	0	0	2	1
5—10	0	2	1	2
10—15	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	0	0	0
20—25	0	0	0	0
25—30	0	0	0	0
30—40	0	0	0	0
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	0	3	5	4
	<hr/>		<hr/>	

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1957

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
Age years	M	F	Age years	M	F
37	0	1			Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA. HOSPITALS.

1. Tuberculosis.

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

2. Maternity Cases.

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

3. Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital, which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford. The latter is of recent construction and well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases; there are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious Cases.

4. Small Pox.

The Small Pox Hospital, to which cases of Small Pox will be sent, is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

5. General.

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

6. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Below is a table giving days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	} Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	} A.P. Refills
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	

V.D. CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions.

FEMALES— Monday 4 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.

MALES—Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

7. Professional Nursing in the Homes.

There is one District Nurse in the area who also acts as a Midwife.

8. Laboratory Facilities.

The main Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

9. Immunization Against Diphtheria.

During the year 41 children received Primary Injections and 32 received Reinforcing Injections.

10. Vaccination.

Total number of Vaccinations against Smallpox was viz.: 28 Primary and 7 Re-vaccinations.

11. Ambulance Services.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme an ambulance station has been established

at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary

12. Acute Poliomyelitis.

No cases occurred during the year.

13. Food Poisoning.

No cases occurred during the year.

14. Home Help Services.

There are Home Helps operating in the South Molton Borough and Rural District and the scheme is run by the Devon County Council. During the year help was rendered in 9 cases.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor or District Nurse will be considered for a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the housewife.

I desire to thank the Town Clerk and the Public Health Inspectors for the help they have given me.

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR TO BOROUGH OF SOUTH MOLTON

For the year ending 31st December, 1957.

1 EAST STREET,
SOUTH MOLTON.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1957.

During the year 2,411 visits and inspections were made including:—

PUBLIC HEALTH—

Byelaws	...	...	...	...	35
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	21
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	7
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	51
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	96
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	475
General	...	...	...	...	32

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS 14

FOOD AND DRUGS—Meat Inspection 246
General 14

FACTORIES—With Power 4
Without Power 3

HOUSING—

Slum Clearance/Rent Acts	...	...	...	8
Council Houses Supervision, etc.	...	...	...	622
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	12

HIGHWAYS 373

LANDS AND PARKS 67

CORPORATE ESTATES 22

MARKETS 80

RODENT CONTROL 4

INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders, etc. 170

MEETINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS 57

WATER SUPPLY

The Public mains supply has been maintained satisfactorily during the year. Chlorination by drip feed has been in operation and a pleasing result of this is that each sample submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination has been placed in Class I. of the Ministry's recommended Standards for Public Main Supplies.

At the Filter House at Westland Bridge the three Candy Pressure Filters have been emptied, overhauled and recharged with new filtering media.

The Storage Reservoirs at North Road have both been emptied, cleaned out and repaired as necessary. Regular leak detection inspections have been made. A number of leaks found, including three fractures of the mains, were repaired. It is not anticipated that any restriction of supply will now be necessary.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Your sewage disposal works at Mole Bridge have been maintained satisfactorily and as a result of a deputation to the Ministry, consent to commence the second stage of your sewage disposal scheme was obtained. When the present scheme is completed the whole of the town sewage will be treated at Mole Bridge Works and the outfalls at Cooks Cross and West End Terrace will no longer be in use. In the meantime every effort has been made to maintain the outfalls at Cooks Cross and West End Terrace in as satisfactory a condition as possible.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Visits were paid to premises in which food is handled and sold and due to the satisfactory conditions found it was not necessary to serve any formal or informal notices.

FOODS CONDEMNED

The following foods have been voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

			lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	5	0
Fish Paste	...	...		14
Crispbread	...	...		7
Tinned Meat	...	...	62	8
„ Fish	...	...		15
„ Fruit	...	...	29	11
„ Jam	...	...	22	0
„ Vegetables		..	4	0
„ Baby Foods		...	12	15
Total			150	13

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The number of licensed Slaughterhouses remained at two and regular killing and inspection has taken place in each. It will be seen from the following table that 100% meat inspection was carried out, involving 246 visits. It was not necessary to condemn any carcase meat but 270 lbs. of offal were condemned.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	125	—	1	215	348	Nil
Number inspected	125	—	1	215	348	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	—	—	4	—	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	13.60 %	—	—	1.85 %	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	21	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.80 %	—	—	—	6.03 %	Nil
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ICE CREAM

Inspections of premises where ice cream is sold have been made. With one exception all the retailers sell pre-packed ice cream.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Acts during the year. Form 572 has been completed.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT

The Council now have the part-time services of the Rural District Rodent Operator, who works under the general supervision of the Department. Regular baiting of the Council's properties, including the refuse tip and sewage disposal works, have been carried out. The Operator has dealt efficiently with infestations found as the result of regular survey and complaints received.

L. W. EVES

Chief Public Health Inspector.

